

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 EUR-25 RSR-01 /152 W
----- 090195

R 171100 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 292

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6563

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN

SUBJECT: ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: A. SAIGON 5711; B. SAIGON 6048 (WEEKA)

1. GVN ANNOUNCED APRIL 16 THAT IT WAS NOT SENDING OBSERVER DELEGATION TO ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING TAKING PLACE AT PATTAYA, THAILAND, APRIL 16-18. SPEAKING TO PRESS ON APRIL 16 AND 17 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) SPOKESMAN SAID THAT GVN NOT ATTENDING MEETING BECAUSE ITS PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

2. GVN DECISION VARIOUSLY ASCRIBED IN MFA TO PIQUE OVER ORIGINAL FORM OF THAI APPROACH (REF A), FACT THAT INVITATION THIS TIME CAME ON BEHALF OF ASEAN ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN HOST COUNTRY (CONTRARY TO REPORT IN REF B) AND
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GVN IRRITATION OVER ASEAN PRETENSIONS TO FUTURE ROLE AS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF VIET- NAM AND INDOCHINA. ON LAST SUBJECT MFA POINTS OUT THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE THEMSELVES AID RECIPIENTS AND ANY ECONOMIC AID THEY COULD PROVIDE TO VIET- NAM WOULD HAVE TO ORIGINATE WITH LARGE DONOR COUNTRIES LIKE US, UK, OR JAPAN. THAT BEING THE CASE GVN WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE AID DIRECTLY FROM ORIGINAL DONORS INSTEAD OF HAVING IT PASS THROUGH ASEAN CHANNELS WHERE SOME OF IT WOULD BE SIPHONED OFF FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSMITTING IT TO VIET- NAM. MFA ALSO IRRITATED BY REPORTED THAI INTIMATION THAT GVN HAD BETTER SEND OBSERVER TO THIS MEETING IF IT WANTED TO FULLY PROFIT FROM ASEAN PROFFERENCE OF AID.

3. WORKING LEVELS MFA ALSO OF OPINION ASEAN MAY BE WEAKENED IN FUTURE BY MOSLEM INSURRECTION IN PHILIPPINES AND THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR GVN' S APPARENT LESSENED INTEREST IN THIS ORGANIZATION. MFA SPOKESMAN SAID ON APRIL 17, HOWEVER, THAT IF GVN WERE ASKED TO JOIN ASEAN IT WOULD GIVE IT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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JAKARTA
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MANILA
PHNOM PENH
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